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E.P.A. - D.L.P.C.
STATE OF ILLINOIS

FROM: Kenneth Bechely

SUBJECT: 03144015 - Cook County - Elk Grove Village/Film Recovery

On May 13, 1983, Glenn Sternard and I attended a meeting at the office of Neil F. Hartigan, Illinois Attorney General. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss all emergency actions, which would be taken to protect the public from the potential dangers associated with the illegal storage of cyanide contaminated film chips. The Attorney General also wished to brief local authorities on our plans. Representatives of the USEPA, IDPH, State Police, and Cook County Department of Environmental Control were also in attendance.

After initial discussions, designed to brief all present on the nature of the problem, we worked on the preparation of a statement for the local authorities. Attorney General Hartigan worked out details for on-site security at all the storage sites with Director Carlson's office, and informed us of the proposed security arrangements.

The potential environmental and safety hazards associated with fire or rain were discussed. The group then reached a consensus on a statement for the local authorities.

Mr. Hartigan then informed us that as a result of discussions with USEPA Regional Administrator Val Adamkus, Philip Mole' (Cook County Environmental Control), and Director Carlson, the Agencies were to prepare a report by May 18, 1983. The report will present treatment/disposal alternatives with anticipated time frames for each activity. Such a report was necessary to present to a judge, in order to expedite a decision, should the defendant fail to present a remedy to the court.

At the conclusion of the first meeting, with the representatives of the environmental regulatory agencies, and the State Police, Mr. Hartigan invited in the local public safety authorities.

Fire and police officials, from virtually all of the affected jurisdictions in the Chicago area, attended the briefing. Mr. Hartigan provided each local official with a copy of our prepared statement (copy attached), and then covered all of the major points verbally. A question and answer session was held at the conclusion of Mr. Hartigan's presentation.

Just prior to adjournment, Mr. Hartigan also made an announcement regarding site security. The Attorney General informed the local authorities that each site would be inspected that evening, by representatives of the USEPA (Glenn Sternard and myself) and the State Police, to insure that access restrictions were in place, and security guards on site.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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After the meeting at the Attorney General's Office, I proceeded to Illinois State Police Headquarters - District 17, to meet with State Police officials. I was to visit the trailer storage sites located in Elk Grove Village, Rosemont, and Franklin Park, Illinois. Glenn Sternard departed directly from the A.G.'s office, with State Troopers, to visit sites in Hodgkins, Chicago Ridge, Summit, McCook, Hinsdale, and Chicago, Illinois (Glenn Sternard report under separate cover). I departed from District 17 with Trooper Thomas Koch, and Captain William Burt, District Commander. We arranged to radio our findings back to District 17, where the duty officer would relay, via telephone, them to the Attorney General's office.

We first visited the storage site at General Diesel, Inc., 2200 Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The parking lot contained one truck trailer with film chips (#GC 2093), and three trailers which were empty, but showed evidence of having contained film chips (#326, #20-254, and Lic. #340-049). Trailer #GC 2093 was not road worthy, with a broken axle, flat tire, and a bad wheel bearing. A 24-hour security guard was on site; however, there was no fence and the trailers were not locked. We also found evidence, such as tire tracks and spilled chips, of 4-6 trailers which had been removed from the site.

We then proceeded to Red Devil Mfg., Inc., 5995 N. River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. A vacant lot behind the building contained twenty-five (25) trailers containing film chips. Most of the trailers were not road worthy for a variety of reasons. A security guard, from Industrial Patrol Service Corp., was on site, and employees from Petrochem Services, Inc., were installing a snow fence on the south side of the property.

Our final visit was at the J. Fiorito Leasing Company, located at 3739 N. Podlin, Franklin Park, Illinois. The trailer storage area contained two (2) trailers with film chips. We were not able to make a satisfactory equipment check, due to darkness; however, the front supports of both trucks had sunk into the ground, rendering them immobile. A security guard, from Industrial Patrol Service Corp., was also on site.

After concluding our inspections we returned to District 17 where I phoned in additional details to the Attorney General's Office, and Jim Kelty. I also advised Jim Kelty that fencing had not been installed at the Elk Grove Village site. Jim said that he would notify Petrochem Services, Inc., and have a fence installed.

KPB:pgb

cc: Northern Region
Director's Office
Tom Cavanagh
Jim Kelty